Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: August 17, 2015 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY

PRESIDING OFFICER: Deputy Chairman Kevin Roberts

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee

PRESENT: Legislators David Donaldson, Manna Jo Greene and

Kenneth Ronk, Jr

ABSENT: Legislator Richard Parete

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Cappy Weiner, Victor Melvile, Observer

from the League of Women Voters.

Chairman R. Parete called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Motion No. 1: The minutes of July 15, 2015 were approved as distributed.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Minutes Approved

Motion No. 2: Resolution No. 255 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2015 (A Local Law Of The County Of Ulster, New York, Known As The "False Alarm Reduction Act") To Be Held On Tuesday, September 15, 2015 At 7:05 PM

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene Discussion: Legislator Roberts said he could not support any new regulations on businesses, noting that in Section 6 (B) of the proposed local law requires the alarm system installer to submit the application form with the required fees. He felt he might be able to support it if the fee and permit were eliminated.

Legislator Ronk, sponsor of the proposed local law, said the purpose of the permit is to identify the contact person or entity that will be responsible for the alarm system.

After a brief discussion about this and other concerns, Legislator Ronk reminded the committee that the Sheriff and other emergency responders are wasting precious time and resources answering an unreasonable number of false alarms – often at the same location. He referred to a report the Sheriff provided listing between 3 and 8 false alarms a day between January 1, 2013 and July 21, 2015. It was noted that there appear to be fewer false alarms in areas that already have a local false alarm ordinance.

Legislator Ronk stated emphatically that he is here to make laws that make a difference and suggested no one could be in favor of police and emergency responders wasting time and energy on false alarms. He said he was willing to discuss concerns and make appropriate changes that did not strip the value of the law.

After a discussion on each section,

Motion to Amend Legislator Ronk

Motion to Second the Amendments Legislator Donaldson

Legislator Ronk moved to make the following amendments:

- Delete Section 6 (D)(4) Any other information which the Ulster County Sheriff deems necessary for the enforcement of this Local Law.
- Delete Section 7 Permit Duration and Renewal completely.
- Section 8 now becomes the new Section 7. Penalties, Payment and Collection Thereof and subsequent sections are renumbered appropriately
- In this new Section 7. Penalties Payment and Collection Thereof
 - o Part (B) delete \$50.00 fine for the first false alarm without a permit and add "Upon the first false alarm, a warning shall be issued to the homeowner and such homeowner shall have 14 days to obtain a permit."

Legislator Roberts said he still had reservations and was not sure he could support the proposed local law but would support a public hearing on it.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor of the Amendments: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Approved

On the Resolution for the Local Law as amended:

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 296 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2015 (A Local Law Establishing A Sustainable Green Fleet Policy)

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Ronk complemented Legislator Greene and the others who worked so diligently on developing this policy.

Legislator Greene noted that one legislator who supported the concept felt that it should be a policy rather than a law but other than that she felt most legislators were pleased with the outcome.

Legislator Ronk said that some legislative policy initiatives are not being enforced where a local law would be and feels this initiative is worthy of being a local law.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
None
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 297 - Adopting Amended Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2015, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), Pertaining To Change Orders And/Or Amendments To Contracts Equal To Or Exceeding \$50,000.00

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislator asked that his name be added as a sponsor.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: Resolution No. 298 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2015 (A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County) To Be Held On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 At 6:00 PM

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk for discussion.

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Roberts noted that Legislative Chairman John Parete, sponsor of the Resolution, suggested the public hearing be postponed to allow legislators to weigh in and make changes before going to public hearing.

Legislator Ronk felt current campaign finance laws set reasonable limits on campaign donations and this law was unconstitutional because it prevented someone from making a donation to the candidate of their choice.

Legislator Donaldson noted that the proposed local law did not limit the individual from making a donation but put the limitation on the candidate not to accept campaign donations from an individual who works for the county.

Legislator Ronk felt that was a distinction that did not change the result.

There was a discussion about the potential for pay-to-play abuse, people who skirt the

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
None
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 6 Resolution No. 323 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2015 (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 5 of 2015, A Local Law Establishing An Automatic Re-Canvassing Procedure In And For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Donaldson asked to be added.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk

Voting Against:
None
No. of Votes in Favor:
4
No. of Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Approved

New Business

Motion No. 7 - Resolution No. 324 - Requesting The Public Service Commission To Direct Verizon To Provide Fiber-Optic Internet Access To The Hudson Valley.

Legislator Donaldson discussed a memorializing Resolution he was offering to ask the Public Service Commission to Direct Verizon to Provide Fiber-Optic Access to the Hudson Valley. He noted that it is late but felt it was important to get these comments to the Public Service Commission in a timely fashion.

There was a discussion about the lateness. Legislator Ronk was against it on the grounds that it was late and spoke on the importance of the resolution deadline. He suggested finding out when the comment period ends. If it ended before the next meeting of the Legislature, he suggested doing it thru a committee of the whole during the session.

Legislator Greene asked to be added as a sponsor.

There was a discussion about the best way to handle it and move it ahead.

Motion Made By: Legislator Roberts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: There was a brief discussion about the problems with internet service in several areas of the County.

Legislator Ronk said that while he agreed with the Resolution he had to oppose for lateness.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson and Greene

Voting Against:

No. of Votes in Favor:

No. of Votes Against:

1

Disposition: Approved

Old Business: None

Motion to adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Donaldson, seconded by Legislator Ronk and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of August, 2015 Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee Minutes Approved on September 14, 2015